

COMMENTS FROM READERS ABOUT HYLES AND QUICK PRAYERISM

September 23, 2002 (David Cloud, Fundamental Baptist Information Service, P.O. Box 610368, Port Huron, MI 48061, 866-295-4143, fbns@wayoflife.org; for instructions about subscribing and unsubscribing or changing addresses, see the information paragraph at the end of the article)

Following are some of the interesting e-mails I have received in the last couple of days about the problem of "quick prayerism" among fundamental Baptists:

"I believe most, and I mean MOST so-called conversions today are false, because the persons don't last but a few months or a couple of years at best, and they're right back in the world! I know we're not to judge a person's heart, but what happened to people getting saved and being faithful over time! I think going back to having "inquiry rooms," that I've read about in Spurgeon's and other old-time preachers' sermons, where getting home for dinner after Sunday church is not the main goal, but rather taking time with sinners till they understand what they're doing would be a great idea! I've seen so many in my church go forward, are led through the plan of salvation in five minutes or less, get baptized a week or two later, and in six months they're back at the local tavern! Our pastor is the most biblically sound, Christ-honoring, sinner-loving man I know, so don't blame him. It's just that I don't think the average sinner understands what it means to repent, which to me is at least in part to WANT Jesus to change you! They want to escape hell, but not to change their lifestyles!"

Your email on Shallow Soul Winning was very good. I grew up near the Bill Rice Ranch, in Murfreesboro, TN. During my high school years I worked on the ranch (1961 -1966) and Dr. Hyles would often speak there. I was caught up at first in him but later, as I married and moved, I began to say to my wife when we would go to hear him preach, I wonder who Jack Hyles will exalt tonight? Himself or the LORD? Sadly, It was always HIMSELF. We stop attending His meetings years ago when everybody thought he was the BEST!!

My sister, after graduating from TTS went off to Hammond to teach at First Baptist Elementary School. While there, her eyes were open also. She has told me of things that happen that I could hardly believe. For examples, Dave Hyles many affairs for just a starter.

It is so sad that this man, Jack Hyles, has destroyed so many peoples faith in the church and the LORD.

May God Bless Your Ministry!!
Lewis Givens

Bro. Cloud,

Thank you for your outstanding and desperately needed article on repentance and soul winning. Jack Hyles was not only wrong on salvation and repentance, he was also a class "A" fraud. I graduated from his college and seminary in the 80's. I attended First Baptist Church of Hammond for seven years. I played their game quite well, not knowing any better at the time. I "won" more souls there than anyone in my time there. I was awarded "The Sword of the Lord Award for Evangelism" in recognition of my "numbers." (They were in the thousands.) I taught "soul winning" in Pastor's School.

Jack Hyles would say and do anything to validate his ministry and his massive ego. Numbers were ALL that mattered to him. I have seen buses full of black children who, while not being allowed in the bus ministry, were driven down the alley behind the church, told to repeat a prayer and counted as "souls won on church property" during big days. It was a disgraceful practice!

In all my years in Hyles' church I was NEVER able to find ONE person whom Jack Hyles personally led to the Lord, even in his own fraudulent way. He was big on sending others, but he himself NEVER went!

Thank you for reminding folks what a fraud this entire ministry was and is. His son-in-law now runs the show. He is a man who is thoroughly compromised by his detailed knowledge of everything that went on there for twenty years: the moral degeneracy of Dave Hyles, the child molestation, the rampant affairs, divorces, debauchery and adultery, the lust and fornication on the part of so many staff members, the cultishness, the siege mentality, the twisted doctrine, the arranged marriages, and so much more. I have seen it all firsthand.

Hyles' supporters are now saying that a new day has dawned. The truth, however, is that Jack Schaap (Hyles son-in-law and successor) is a deeply compromised man. Until he makes that institution accountable for its sins of the past, he deserves not one whit of respect from Christians. He knew of ALL the abuse and turned a blind eye to it all in order to preserve his ecclesiastical inheritance. In effect, the man sold his soul. He watched more lives ruined by two decades of abuse than most people will ever know. I saw him many times around his father-in-law, Jack Hyles. He was like a little puppy. I remember being so embarrassed for him.

Let the truth be told, Bro. Cloud.

Jerry D. Kaifetz, Ph. D.
(1986 H.A.C grad, 1988 H.A Seminary grad.)

Bro. Cloud,

I am a Hyles-Anderson grad, and everything you said is right on the mark. Some of us truly tried to present the Gospel clearly, but we had nowhere near the numbers the "big boys" did. Coincidentally, I was reading Spurgeon's sermon "The Withered Hand" (vol. 25, #1485, page

412) yesterday when I received your email and here is what he said:

"Oh," say you, "we truly wish to be saved." I do not think so, for what do you mean by being saved? Do you mean being saved from going down to hell? Everybody, of course, wishes that. Did you ever meet a thief that would not like to be saved from going to prison or being locked up by the policeman? But when we talk about salvation, we mean being saved from the habit of wrong-doing; being saved from the power of evil, the love of sin, the practice of folly, and the very power to find pleasure in transgression. Do you wish to be saved from pleasurable and gainful sins? Find me the drunkard who sincerely prays to be delivered from drunkenness. Bring me an unchaste man who pines to be pure. Find me one who is a habitual liar and yet longs to speak the truth. Bring me one who has been selfish and who in his very heart hates himself for it, and longs to be full of love and to be made Christlike. Why, half the battle is won in such cases.

Of course, Spurgeon is preaching repentance and always did. If the Hyles and Grays and Neals and all the others that are having "thousands saved" presented salvation as a complete change of life, you know what the results would be. When I sat in the auditorium in Hammond for seven years (2 decades), I hardly ever saw anyone who looked like they were newly saved people (longer hair, no suits or ties, women in pants) coming regularly. Oh, they might come once, but that was it. Let's face it, if they were having 15-20,000 baptisms a year (that wasn't so either, but that's another story) and only 1% were real and began attending, they would have needed to add seating for another 500 people every 3 years or so. It never happened. What a fantasy. This all panders to pride and arrogance, which is the driving force behind all these ministries. I could go on and so could you, but for what...the deluded will never be convinced anyway. I think I would rather stand before God with a few truly saved from my labors than a multitude pointing the finger at me for confirming them in their unbelief.

Press on,
Kerry James Allen, Pastor Fox River Baptist Church

Thank you Dr. Cloud,

As I sit here at my desk at work I think of the hundreds I have "led to the Lord" and how almost none have ever darkened the doorway of a church. My heart is broken because of many who may spend eternity in hell because I followed the system you taught about in this lesson ["Fundamental Baptists and Quick Prayerism"]. By the grace of God, I will never again lead someone to pray a sinner's prayer unless they have repented. I have been burdened for years that while supposedly winning souls to Christ, no one cares for the church or does have a changed life. I have wondered why. Now, I know.

Thank you, again for taking a stand.
Jim Moyers

Dear Bro Cloud,

You can add Amazing Grace Ministries to the list of folks who have a "numbers" based salvation message.....we personally worked with them here in Florida for a week and they claimed 1029 conversions.....(My wife and I estimate 10 were real) and I personally have had contact with one a week later and he had no signs of "life changing experience" from his dealings with Amazing Grace. Although I wish them the best, and the folks working with them are honest and zealous, their methods are not what build churches. We were given to our church a list of names, (so called confessions from the fair) and with follow-up we added no souls to our church. nada. (although that does not mean some folks were saved, our church didn't receive any of the true confessions.)

I also worked for a time doing the same type of witnessing out of a booth at a flea market, and I can say that this plants more seed and makes unsaved folks think more about salvation than the fair type experience.....though I have a lot less "success" than the fella who ran the booth. (the reason why is i personally don't want any false conversions.)

Lord bless you for sounding the alarm against something we have been witnessing first hand.
(and found quite upsetting)

(Yes, you can name my name)

Sign me disgusted in florida,
Martin Mallasch

Dear Brother Cloud,

I am completely in agreement with you about the soul-damning results of quick-prayerism methodology. Furthermore, it is certain that Hyles-Anderson, for a long period of time, did teach the heresy that repentance is not part of the gospel, and many of their graduates have left there and taught this false gospel. Furthermore, while I was at Fairhaven Baptist Church + College (I graduated in Spring 2000), I saw firsthand instances where people from Hyles' school would come to where we had bus kids, go through the entire area, gimmick them to a Saturday "church party," and baptize them all to count them as "saved." It made me and my fellow bus workers very angry! Thankfully, they would then abandon them so that we could continue to take them to church and teach them the gospel of repentance and faith in Christ. There was one time that they did this in a project we picked kids up in, and they baptized practically everyone, except for one kid whom we picked up regularly. We asked this kid why he did not get baptized, and he told us that they had baptized him twice already, and he did not want to be baptized again. He did not understand the gospel, either, so he was not born again. Anyway, I say all this to say that I am in agreement with you about the soul-damning results of Hyles-Anderson methodology and their

former anti-repentance theology.

However, at the last preaching conference at Fairhaven, which I attended, I went in the afternoon between morning and evening preaching sessions with a friend of mine who works at Fairhaven to the church facilities of 1st Baptist in Hammond. (I had never been there while I was going to Fairhaven, and I just wanted to see what the place was like.) There were not many people there, of course, for no service was coming up any time soon. However, one thing that we did discover was a sheet which was to be taught in Sunday school the next Sunday on repentance; and, to our absolute amazement, it was perfectly sound doctrinally! It taught that repentance resulted in a changed life; it even quoted "take up the cross and follow me" as repentance (which it is in context). We were absolutely astounded, having seen the practice and known the former teaching of the school and church. We asked someone who worked at Hyles and was around if we could get a photocopy of that, and he allowed us to do so, and I still have a copy. So, while the methodology at Hyles is terrible, and while they do not put in practice what they now (unlike formerly) believe about repentance, at this time 1st Baptist in Hammond no longer rejects repentance; they now consider that it is indeed part of the gospel. For this I am glad, of course. This fact may require some alteration in the recent stuff you sent out on repentance and quick-prayerism, for Hyles' school and church now officially believe in the doctrine of repentance, as I have seen from their very own Sunday school lesson.

Grace and peace in Christ,
Thomas Ross

CONCLUDING REMARKS BY BROTHER CLOUD

I am thankful for those who are willing to stand up and be counted in the battle for truth today, though the list is entirely too small! You can avoid a lot of trouble in this life by keeping your mouth shut about error, but to do so allows error to proceed unhindered. I can't image that spiritual pacifists and ecclesiastical politicians will be rewarded at the judgment seat of Christ, when He has solemnly commanded us to earnestly contend for the faith once delivered to the saints.

As for Hyles Anderson College now teaching a Biblical view of repentance, I do not doubt it. But as Brother Ross observed, nothing has changed in practice. I have seen this at other places. There are some who are bold to talk about repentance and even to define it scripturally but in practice they disregard it almost totally and continue to report wildly bogus salvation statistics year after year.